Promotions in IAF

4601. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in 'The Pioneer' dated the 7th July, 1998, under the caption "IAF Promotions-Defence Ministry continues to mislead PMO"; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) The press report was factually incorrect. The correct position in detail has been reported to the Prime Minister's Office.

Private Flats Occupied by Navy and Army

4602. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of private flats occupied by Navy and Army, separately, in Bombay in respect of which the valid lease period had expired more than 15 years back;

(b) the reasons for not de-hiring these flats after the expiry of the lease period; and

(c) the number and details of representations received in this regard and the details of directives/orders issued by Government in this respect and the present status of these flats?

THE MINISTER OF DEFFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) As per information available private flats hired/leased where leases have expired more than 15 years ago in 30 in the case of Navy and 85 in the case of Army. The balance 125 hired flats by the Navy and 66 by the army have been hired without any agreement being executed. Most of these flats have been taken on lease between 1941-42.

(b) These flats could nto be dehired due to shortage of Government owned accommodation for service personnel at Bombay.

(c) Majority of these house owners have been representing for dehiring of their flats Government has laid down a policy that 10% of number of flats newly constructed or hired will be dehired according to the date of initial hiring.

CSD Melas

4603. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the small scale vendors of CSD are directed to participate in Melas organised by Canteen Stores Department;

(b) is it a fact that the participants are forced to pay huge expenses;

(c) the ndumber of Melas held every year;

(d) whether forcible participation by small and medium size units will be stopped; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) As per policy of the Canteen Stores Departments (CSD), suppliers are required to provide After-Sales Service to the consumers, particularly in the field of electrical/electronic items. The vendors are requested by the CSD to participate in such Melas with this objective in view.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Each Area Depot is expected to organise 2 such Melas, every year.

(d) and (e) As explained in (a) above, there is no forcible participation in the After-Sales Service Melas.

Construction of Float Assembly in OPF

4604. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of Float Assembly (KM) has been delayed

abnormally in Ordnance Parachute Factory for want of supplies of raw material;

(b) whether only a selected few suppliers have been given orders for supply of raw material despite large number of approved list of bonafide suppliers having been given by DGQA;

(c) whether supplies of other suppliers than a chosen few by OPF are being rejected without any valid reason; and

(d) whether any enquiry has been ordered; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) There has been no delay in the production of Float Assembly for want of raw material. Regular tender enquiries for the main raw material 'Rubberised Fabric' are being issued to all established suppliers from the DGQA approved list of sources. No tenders have been issued to firms other than DGQA approved sources.

Orders have been placed on merit of the offers against tenders, strictly in accordance with the tender rules. The materials are inspected by DGQA representatives and rejection if any, are based on definite technical shortcomming noticed during the process of manufacture;

Assessment of Regional Security Environment

4605. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minsiter of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a panel formed by Government to discuss ways to strengthen defence has recently made an assessment of the regional security environment and need for timely preparation for future battlefield scenario;

(b) if so, whether Government's preparedness in defence is questionable; and

(c) if not, what other steps Government propose to take to meet any challenge?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No specific panel was formed by the Government on this matter. However an assessment of the security environment is a continuous process and all relevant steps are being taken to meet any eventuality.

(b) and (c) Government are continuously engaged in the process of improving the defence preparedness of the country including through the creation of an effective deterrent against the use of or the threat of use of weapons of mass destruction against India.

Enquiry into Disappearance of Y. Sanamacha

4606. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Defence Minister has given an assurance not to interfere in the judicial enquiry instituted by Government of Manipur regarding the missing of Y. Sanamacha;

(b) whether the enquiry committee constituted has since completed its enquiry and submitted its reports; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The legal competence of the State Government of Manipur to constitute a Commission of Inquiry in the matter is under consideration of the Hon'ble High Court of Guwahati. The Raksha Mantri has only given an assurance that there will be no effort on the part of the Government and the Army authorities to conceal the truth.

The Army Court of Inquiry constituted earlier has opined that there has been no